

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, EVENING, WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 18.

NO. 6

NEWSPAPER

1. CH-DAILY NEWS (GRUENBERG FROM MACUTO, VENEZUELA):

"THE FULL DIPLOMATIC TALENTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER ARE BEING
SUMMONED ... AS HE LEAVES VENEZUELA FOR PERU

"... KISSINGER WILL COME TO GRIPS WITH A TOUGH, LEFTIST
MILITARY REGIME THAT DESCRIBES ITSELF AS BEING NEITHER
CAPITALIST NOR COMMUNIST.

"IT ALSO SEES ITSELF AS ONE OF THE THIRD WORLD LEADERS AND,
TO AN EXTENT, THE UNITED STATES HAS RECOGNIZED THIS,
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INCLUDING PERU'S EFFORTS TO WEAKEN WHAT IT REGARDS AS U.S.

DOMINANCE OF THE HEMISPHERE.

"...KISSINGER USED THE VISIT TO VENEZUELA ... TO PUBLICLY ADMIT PAST U.S. MISTAKES IN LATIN FOREIGN POLICY, AND ALSO TO RECALL A FEW UNPLEASANT TRUTHS ABOUT LATIN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES.

"HE ASKED FOR A CESSATION OF THE OLD SUSPICIONS OF YANKEES AND URGED LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ... TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES IN MEETING WIDER WORLD RESPONSIBILITIES.

"HE AGAIN WARNED THAT CUBAN INTERVENTION ... CANNOT GO UNCHALLENGED A SECOND TIME

KISSINGER ALSO EMPHASIZED ... HE IS NOT ON AN ANTI-CASTRO CRUSADE, EXPLAINING THAT HE OFFERS THESE SENTIMENTS ONLY WHEN ASKED.

"AND HE IS BEING ASKED, HE SAYS, BY LATINS WHO PERCEIVE CASTRO AS A 'NEW' THREAT.

HIS TOUGH TALK WITH TOUGH PERUVIAN OFFICIALS CONCEIVABLY MAY PRODUCE A DIFFERENT REACTION "

WIRES

1. UPI (FROM LIMA): KISSINGER'S TOUR TO LATIN AMERICA BEGAN TO RUN INTO TROUBLE WEDNESDAY, PLANS FOR A CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT COLLAPSED BECAUSE HALF THE PRESIDENTS SAID THEY COULD NOT COME.

U.S. OFFICIALS ... SAID THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE ... HAD BEEN DOWNGRADED INTO A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING BECAUSE THREE OF THE SIX PRESIDENTS OF THE AREA HAD INDICATED THEY COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT GO TO SAN JOSE.

... GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD SAID HE COULD NOT GO BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKES ...

THEN PRESEIDENT MOLINA OF EL SALVADOR ANNOUNCED HE WOULD NOT BE THERE EITHER. HE WAS REPORTEDLY ANGERED BECAUSE HE UNCLASSIFIED

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RECEIVED HIS INVITATION AFTER IT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS.

HONDURAS JUAN MELGAR ALSO CANCELLED HIS TRIP ... PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCES WITH EL SALVADOR.

2. AP (FREED FROM LIMA): KISSINGER FLEW TO PERU TODAY AND IMMEDIATELY MET WITH PRESIDENT MORALES HERMUDEZ FOR A

DISCUSSION OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE LEFT-WING MILITARY REGIME -- THE QUESTION OF PERU'S NATIONALIZATION OF AMERICAN PROPERTY AND RESULTING UNSETTLED FINANCIAL CLAIMS ...

THE MATTER OF CUBAN FOREIGN INTERVENTION ALSO CAME UP AND WILL AGAIN IN KISSINGER'S OTHER MEETINGS, A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID.

3. REUTERS (NELSON FROM LIMA): THE U.S. IS TRYING TO CHECK VAGUE REPORTS OF AN INCREASED CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID HERE TODAY.

... THE REPORTS WERE TAKEN UP BY KISSINGER WHEN HE MET GUYANA'S FM, FRED WILLS, IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK.

... ACCORDING TO THE GUYANA REPORTS, THE OFFICIALS SAID, A SMALL NUMBER OF CUBANS WERE THERE TO REFUEL PLANES CARRYING CUBAN TROOPS TO ANGOLA.

'WE DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE CUBAN TROOPS THERE OR NOT,' ONE OFFICIAL SAID. 'THESE ARE THE FIRST VAGUE REPORTS YOU GET, AND WE'RE TRYING TO CHECK THEM.'

... U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CUBAN TROOPS MIGHT LOOK FOR NEW FIELDS TO CONQUER ONCE THEY ARE FINISHED IN ANGOLA

PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA, WHO HAD STRONGLY ADVOCATED WELCOMING CUBA BACK INTO THE LATIN COMMUNITY AFTER YEARS OF ISOLATION, INDICATED TO KISSINGER YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, ACCORDING TO ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL ABOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE.

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... PEREZ APPEARED TO BE CONCERNED BOTH ABOUT THE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND POSSIBLE FRICTION ALONG HIS COUNTRY'S EASTERN BORDER WITH LEFTWING GUYANA, U.S. OFFICIALS REPORTED. ...

NETWORKS

NO MENTION OF KISSINGER TRIP ON ANY NETWORKS.

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